

# Facts at a Glance: Transfer Movements & Tuition Savings in Ohio Public Institutions of Higher Education

*Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network*



November 2020

# Ohio's Transfer Movements

- Transfer students are a substantial component of the undergraduate student population in Ohio's public institutions of higher education.
- In 2019-20, 30,154 students transferred among campuses of Ohio public institutions of higher education.
- The ability to transfer credits allows students to get on the low-cost pathway to degree completion.
- The following slides present trends in transfer volumes, enrollment, transfer destinations, and transfer facilitated tuition savings from recent years.

# Definition: Transfer Students

- Defining the college of attendance is the first step to defining transfer movements. The college of attendance is defined as the one where the student attempted the maximum credit hours in an academic year.
- A student is defined as a transfer if she makes a clean break from her college of attendance in an academic year where a clean break in turn is defined to have occurred in any of the following situations:
  - The student formally transfers credits from her college of attendance to another institution.
  - The student does not transfer credit to another institution but attends a single institution of higher education that is different from her original college of attendance.
  - The student does not transfer credit to another institution but attends multiple institutions and attempts the maximum number of credit hours in an institution other than her original college of attendance.
- The definition does not include transients – students who attend an institution for a few credit hours over a brief period before returning to their original colleges.

# Methodology:

## Estimation of Transfer-Facilitated Tuition Savings

- Savings from inter-institution credit transfers generate from the following activities:
  - Transfer of students from less expensive institutions to more expensive institutions; it is maintained that savings are generated only if students transfer in an upward direction, i.e., from a community college to a regional or the main campus of a four-year university, or from the regional campus of a four-year university to the main campus of a four-year university.
  - Transfer of credit, but not of students, from less expensive to more expensive institutions; in this case, students continue attendance in a single institution in two successive academic years, but earn credit simultaneously from a less expensive institution.

# Methodology: Estimation of Transfer-Facilitated Tuition Savings (continued)

- Savings are calculated as a product of the following two components.
  - Pairwise differences in tuition per credit between four-year university main campuses and community colleges, between the main and the regional campuses of four-year universities, and between four-year regional campuses and community colleges.
  - The aggregate number of credit hours completed at less expensive institutions and intended for use at more expensive institutions. Specifically, this includes hours completed at community colleges – to be used at the regional or the main campus of a four-year university, and hours completed at a regional campus of a four-year university to be used at the main campus of a four-year university.
- In savings calculations, general, technical, and baccalaureate level completed hours are included; remedial education hours are excluded.
- Calculated savings reflect differences in the total tuition cost of hours – the amounts students would have paid if they had completed the hours at the more expensive institutions. The estimated amounts are a measure of savings accruing to students.

# Ohio's Transfer Volumes & Savings

In 2019-20	Savings	Summary
<b>30,154</b> Undergraduates transferred among Ohio public institutions <b>+</b> <b>20,327</b> Additional undergraduates transferred credit from less to more expensive institutions	<b>\$47.2 Mill.</b> From transfer of students – lower-cost to more expensive institutions <b>+</b> <b>\$20.2 Mill.</b> From transfer of credit – lower-cost to more expensive institutions <b>Total?</b> <b>\$67.5 Mill.</b>	Transfer volumes & transfer-facilitated tuition savings have fluctuated in the past years. The data for this year indicate a decrease in transfer savings with respect to the previous year*.

Note: Dollar figures are in constant 2009-10 prices.

\* Decrease in savings is attributed to lower transfer hours, lower tuition differences per credit hour, and an increase in CPI.

# Why Did Aggregate Savings Decline?

- The decrease to the savings can be attributed to the following factors that are used in the **calculation** of estimated tuition savings:
  - Decrease in transfer numbers from 2019 to 2020
  - Decrease in credit hours transferred from 2019 to 2020
  - Decrease in pairwise difference tuition from 2019 to 2020
  - Increase in consumer price index from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020

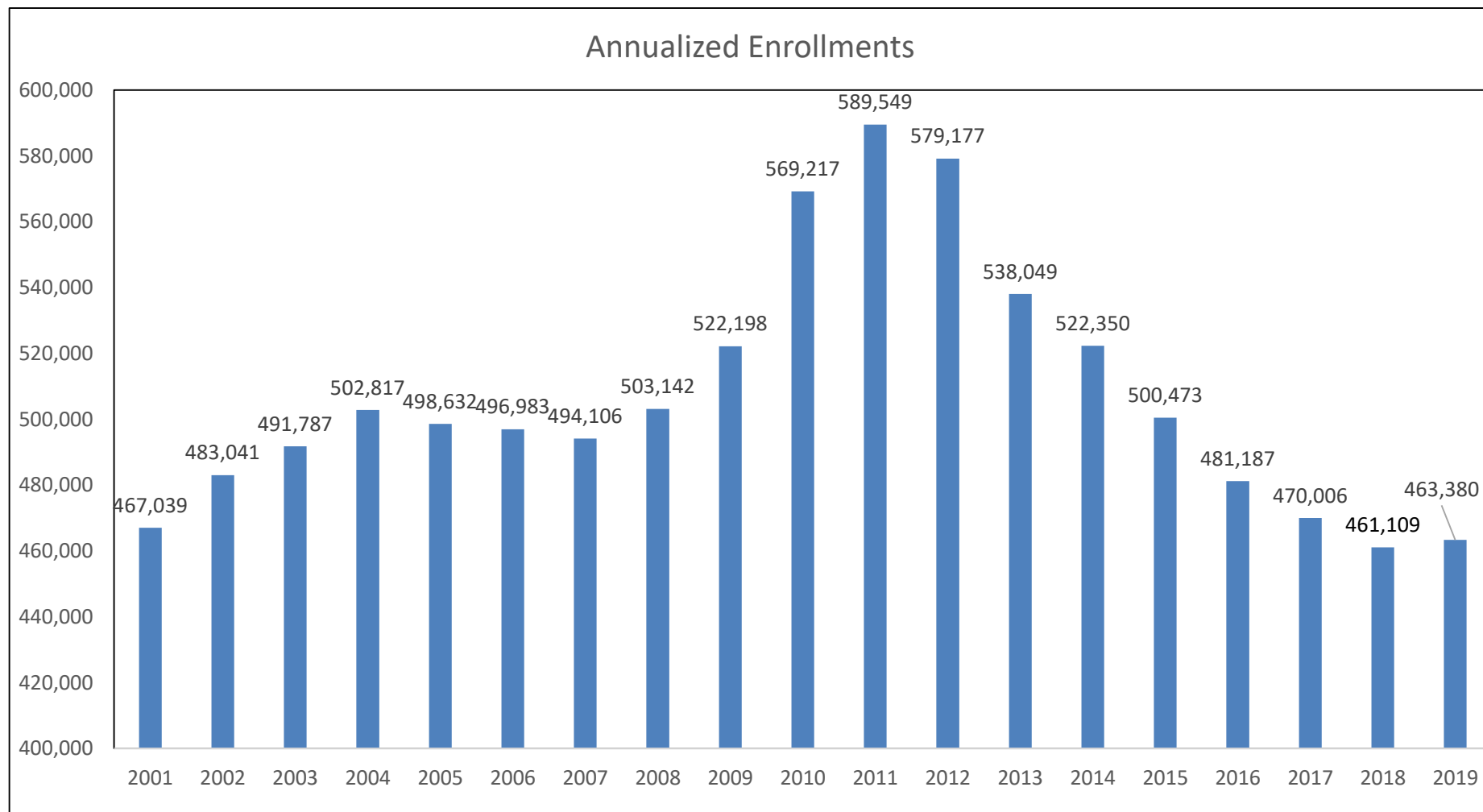
# Growth of Enrollment & Transfers

2000-01 to 2001-02	2018-19 to 2019-20	Trends
<p><u>2000-01:</u> Annualized enrollment of 467,039.</p> <p>↓</p>	<p><u>2018-19:</u> Annualized enrollment of 463,380.</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>In previous years, transfer numbers decreased as a direct result of decreased student enrollment. This year has also seen a decrease in transfers despite the increase in enrollment.</p>
<p><u>2001-02:</u> 29,993 transfer. Of every 100 enrollees, 6.4 transfer.</p>	<p><u>2019-20:</u> 30,154 transfer. Of every 100 enrollees, 6.5 transfer.</p>	

Source: Calculated using Higher Education Information (HEI) data.

Note: The increase in enrollment for FY19 is directly correlated to specific institutions' increased online enrollment.

# Enrollment Numbers: FY2001 to FY2019

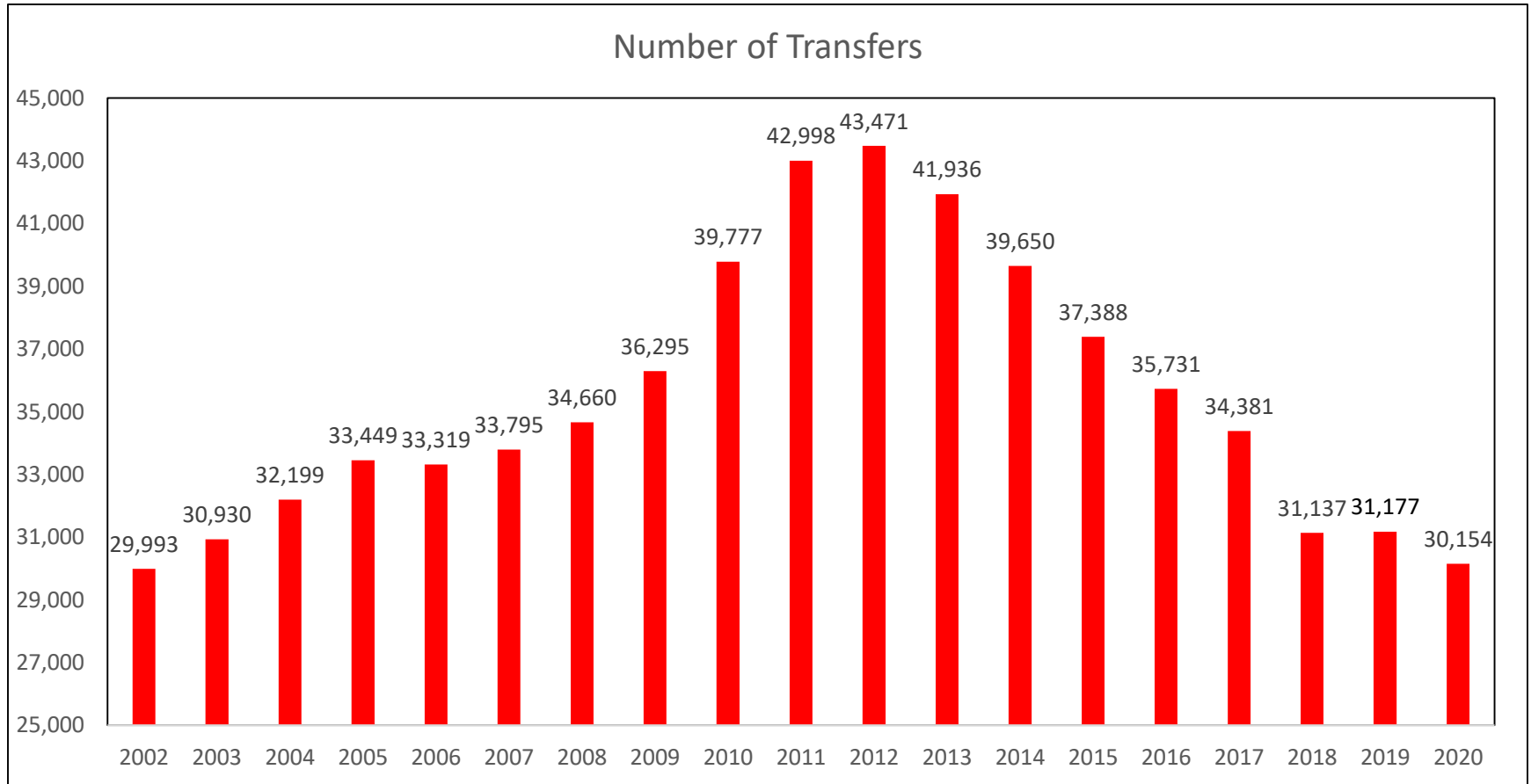


Source: Calculated using Higher Education Information (HEI) data.

Note: The increase in enrollment for FY19 is directly correlated to specific institutions' increased online enrollment.

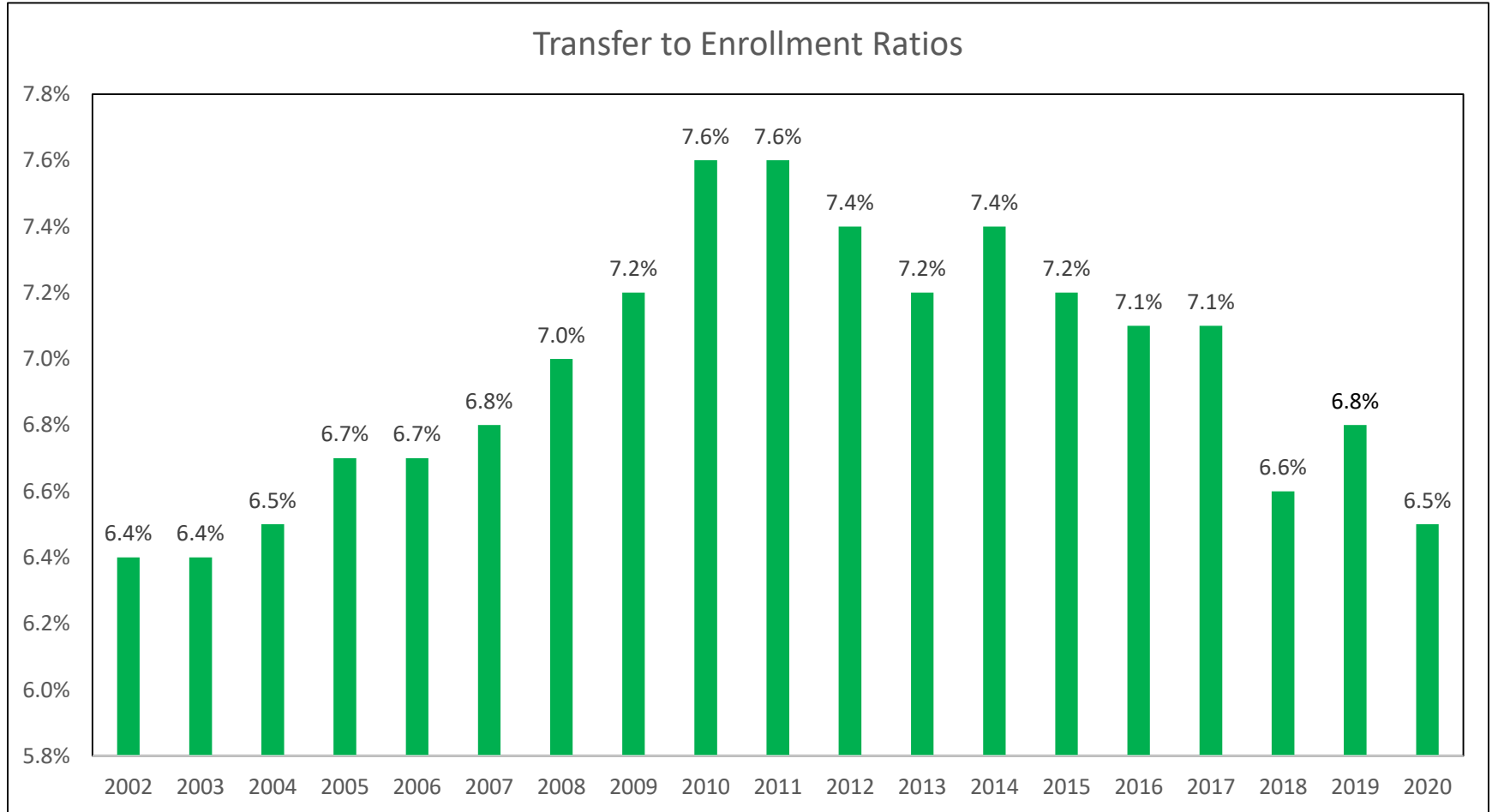
# Trends in Transfer Volumes: FY2002 to FY2020

## Falling Enrollment Contributes to Declining Transfers



Source: Calculated using Higher Education Information (HEI) data.

# Transfer-to-Enrollment Ratio: FY2002 to FY2020



Source: Calculated using Higher Education Information (HEI) data.

Note: As a result of the increased online enrollment for FY19, the ratio for FY20 is adversely affected as well.

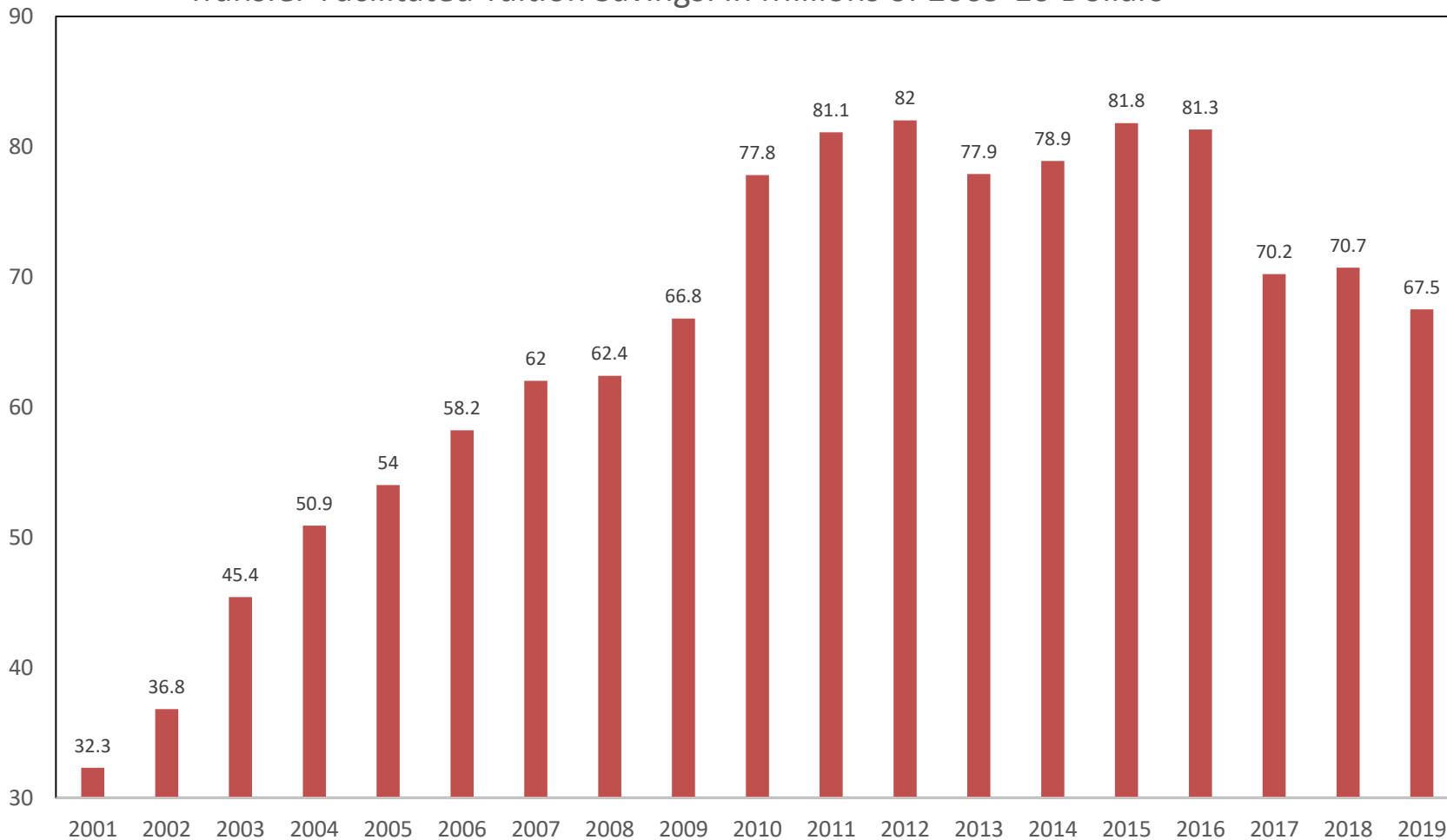
# Transfer Volumes for Selected Years: By Source & Destination Types

Year of Transfer	Transferred from 2-Year Colleges			Transferred from 4-Year University Regional Campuses			Transferred from 4-Year University Main Campuses		
	Transferred to			Transferred to			Transferred to		
	2-year Colleges	4-Year Reg. Campuses	4-Year Main	2-Year Colleges	4-Year Reg. Campuses	4-Year Main	2-Year College	4-Year Reg. Campuses	4-Year Main
<b>FY2002</b>	2,710	1,082	7,310	1,614	948	4,466	6,236	1,966	3,661
<b>FY2003</b>	2,746	1,078	7,192	1,705	987	4,596	6,745	2,114	3,767
<b>FY2004</b>	3,128	1,239	7,456	1,896	1,107	4,532	6,933	2,316	3,592
<b>FY2009</b>	4,003	1,490	8,284	2,248	1,427	4,933	8,163	2,389	3,358
<b>FY2010</b>	5,227	1,826	9,017	2,412	1,657	5,296	8,530	2,469	3,343
<b>FY2011</b>	6,002	1,944	9,977	2,636	1,873	6,173	8,420	2,590	3,383
<b>FY2018</b>	2,690	1,212	7,399	1,445	2,200	5,566	5,775	2,307	2,543
<b>FY2019</b>	2,830	1,082	7,305	1,423	2,291	5,390	6,023	2,350	2,483
<b>FY2020</b>	2,692	1,042	6,962	1,501	2,402	5,421	5,641	2,150	2,343

Note: Complete annual by-institution and by-sector transfer matrices for the period between FY2002 and FY2020 are available at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/research>.

# Estimated Transfer-Facilitated Tuition-Savings

Transfer-Facilitated Tuition Savings: In Millions of 2009-10 Dollars



Source: Calculated using Higher Education Information (HEI) data.